

## WRITTEN REPLY

To the Examiner of the Patent Office

## 5    1. International Application No.

PCT/JP2004/017146

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## 4. Date of Notice

08. 11. 2005 (Mailing Date)

## 5. Contents of Reply

25        We have received the PCT Written Opinion according to the regulation  
of Article 13 (PCT Rule 66) in the law concerning the international  
application based on the Patent Cooperation Treaty and related matters.  
Our reply is as follows.

(1) Description of Amendment

In the invention of the present application, claim 2 is incorporated into claim 1, and claim 2 is cancelled as in the Amendment to be submitted with the Reply.

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(2) Description of Invention of Present Application

The invention defined by claim 1 of the present application has a configuration in which a thin film transistor is provided on a substrate and a display element unit is provided above the thin film transistor. With this  
10 configuration, the display element unit, a pixel electrode, and the like function as a block layer against moisture and oxygen entering from outside, resulting in a remarkable effect of providing protection without increasing the number of constituent members.

Further, with the configuration in which “the pixel electrode has an area  
15 larger than that of the source electrode so as to cover the active layer on the source electrode substantially entirely”, it is possible to prevent moisture and the like from entering from sides of the active layer from around the pixel electrode.

20 (3) Difference between Present Invention and Cited References

In thin film transistors described in Cited References 1 and 2, a source electrode is formed so as to be opposed to a pixel electrode in a thickness direction with an active layer interposed therebetween. Further, Cited References 1 and 2 disclose a configuration in which the source electrode is  
25 equal to the pixel electrode.

Regarding claim 2 before the amendment, the Examiner asserts that “the invention of the present application has a configuration in which the source electrode has an area larger than that of the pixel electrode, but

there is no particular effect of the configuration in which the source electrode is larger in area than the pixel electrode when comparing the areas of the source electrode and the pixel electrode”.

However, we consider that this assertion is based on a  
5 misunderstanding. The invention defined by claim 2 of the present application before the amendment is directed to the configuration in which the pixel electrode has an area larger than that of the source electrode, and the Examiner seems to understand the two electrodes in reverse.

According to the invention defined by claim 1 of the present application,  
10 into which the configuration of claim 2 before the amendment is incorporated, “the pixel electrode has an area larger than the source electrode so as to cover the active layer on the source electrode substantially entirely”. Therefore, it is possible to obtain a remarkable effect of preventing moisture and the like from entering from sides of the active layer  
15 from around the pixel electrode. Namely, the invention defined by claim 1 of the present application has a configuration that cannot be achieved only by laminating a display element unit and the thin film transistor unit in display apparatuses disclosed in Cited References 1 and 2 in inverse order, and the remarkable effect can be obtained due to the difference in the  
20 configuration. Further, Cited References 1 and 2 do not have an object of protecting the active layer of the thin film transistor from moisture and oxygen entering from outside as in the invention of the present application. Therefore, we consider that it would be impossible even for a person skilled in the art to easily think of the invention defined by claim 1 of the present  
25 application from Cited References 1 and 2. The recitation in claim 1 (claim 2 before the amendment) of the present application that “the pixel electrode has an area larger than that of the source electrode” is supported by the description that “the pixel electrode 15 is formed so as to cover an active

layer unit (portion of the organic semiconductor layer 13 on the source  
electrode 12) entirely” in paragraph [0023], lines 7-8 (corresponding to lines  
10-12 of the English translation) of the specification. From this description  
and FIG. 1B, it is clear that the area of the pixel electrode is larger than the  
5 area of the portion of the organic semiconductor layer on the source  
electrode, i.e., the area of the source electrode.

Therefore, we believe that the invention of the present application has  
an inventive step.

As described above, we consider that the invention defined by claim 1 of  
10 the present application has patentability, and thus respectfully request a  
reexamination of the present invention.

#### 6. List of attached documents

(1) Amendment

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